

[13th December 1923]

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I require notice of that, Sir ; and if a question is put in the proper form, a statement will be made."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Law Member thinks it is consistent with the statutory power vested in the hon. the Advocate-General, to enter a *nolle prosequi* in a Sessions case of this kind when it comes before the High Court, and also with the statutory power vested in him to grant a certificate for further consideration of points of law in Sessions cases and consistent with the interests of justice that a statutory officer of that position should be asked to conduct what is practically a private prosecution, although it is called a Crown case ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" There are delicate problems arising out of that situation in which the Advocate-General finds himself placed. But the uniform practice of every High Court in India is that in every heavy Sessions case the Advocate-General by right appears. It was after consulting those precedents that the hon. the Advocate-General was asked to conduct this very heavy case."

### ESTATES LAND ACT.

#### *Revision of the Madras Estates Land Act.*

30 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (i) whether the Madras Estates Land Act was taken up for revision during the last term of the Council and, if so, when ;
- (ii) whether a committee was appointed to consider about amendments to the Madras Estates Land Act, and, if so, when ;
- (iii) when the committee began and concluded its sittings ;
- (iv) whether the committee submitted its report to the Government, and if so, when ; and
- (v) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government on that report ?

A.—(i) Yes, in March 1921.

(ii), (iii) & (iv) An informal committee of non-officials representing various interests was convened in October 1922 to consider a Bill drafted by Government. It held its sittings from the 4th October 1922 to the 23rd October 1922. The minutes recorded at their sittings were communicated to Government by the end of October 1922.

(v) Their recommendations were duly considered by the Government and the Bill has been revised which is now under the consideration of Government.

### HIGH COURT.

#### *Official Referee of the Madras High Court.*

31 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of cases disposed of by the Official Referee of the Madras High Court for the last six months ?

A.—The High Court has been asked to furnish the figures.